

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Launches One Love Louisville Campaign, Urging Citizens To Be The One To Reduce Violence

Campaign part of comprehensive Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods Plan to reduce violent deaths

LOUISVILLE (January 20, 2015) – Mayor Greg Fischer took another step in his commitment to reduce violent deaths resulting from homicides, suicides and drug overdoses today, launching the One Love Louisville, Be the One campaign.

The “all hands on deck” action plan, urging all citizens to take an active role to make Louisville a city of safe and healthy neighborhoods, where all citizens feel secure, supported and prepared for lifelong success.

“I encourage citizens to serve as a mentor, hire a SummerWorks student, spend an hour reading to a young person or simply be a positive influence in your neighborhood,” Fischer said. “When citizens hear One Love Louisville, I hope they are inspired to ‘Be the One’ to make a difference in our community.”

The next opportunity to get involved is Saturday, January 24, 12:00 p.m. at Louisville Metro Hall. The Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods and Metro United Way are hosting the “Be The One” Mentoring Fair. At the fair, citizens can talk one-on-one with mentoring organizations, hear from long-term mentors and select the mentoring program that works best for them.

Fischer said the campaign will promote opportunities to help reduce violence and share stories of positive accomplishments and work in the community. It is one of many initiatives in the city’s Blueprint for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods, Phase II Action Plan. The Action Plan sets the stage for the next two years of work.

The initial work began in 2012 with the creation of the violence prevention workgroup after a triple homicide in the Parkland neighborhood.

The new plan has 13 goals and 42 initiatives developed by more than 150 citizens from diverse backgrounds representing business, nonprofit and government.

“The plan will lead to an overall reduction in violent crime across our city,” said Anthony Smith, director of the Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods. “We have looked at crime data, identified best practices and will focus many of our efforts on young adults, working to reduce the number of youth exposed to violence.”

“Reducing violence is not an overnight fix - it will take time, commitment and targeted resources to see the reductions we all desire,” Fischer said.

Phase II Action Plan will build on many accomplishments including:

- National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention Partnership
a network of communities and federal agencies that work together, share information and build local capacity to prevent and reduce youth violence
- Crisis Response Team
trained citizens who provide support to neighborhoods impacted by violence
- Metro Youth Advocates
a group of young people inspired, informed and engaged to effectively advocate for policy change at the community level
- Metro Mentors
Metro program that allows employees the opportunity to take two hours of paid time a week to work with at-risk youth and help them develop the skills, confidence and personal vision to make the right choices in their lives
- SummerWorks
provided over 2,000 jobs to youth and young adults this summer
- LMPD alerting JCPS counselors of students affected by violence
- Zones of Hope
group of community leaders who focus on reducing violence, increasing educational and employment opportunities and improving the narrative surrounding young men and boys of color.
Zones of Hope include: Newburg, Russell, Parkland, Shawnee and California Communities
- Evening Report Center
Alternative youth detention programming and support
- Suicide Prevention Work Group
- Substance Abuse Prevention Work Group
- Enough is Enough
Metro Corrections substance abuse program and detox monitoring
- Right Turn
focused effort to help 500 youth in our community get back on track after getting in minor scrapes with the justice system
- Healing Futures Fellowship
Six-week summer program bringing together youth from all areas of Louisville to explore differing views of race, class, culture, gender and equity
- Metro Community Centers
Expanded evening youth programming
Conflict resolution classes
WiFi access

To view the complete Action Plan or learn more about the “Be the One” Mentoring Fair, visit: louisvilleky.gov

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